**PLN Strategy #4**

**(working with fiction)**

**Lesson Focus:** Understanding a Main Character (characterization)

**PLN piece:** The Important Thing Poem

As you work with character traits of the characters within a text, it’s fun to compare the characters to ourselves. Students can ask themselves, “What would I do if I were this character?” One way to enable students to compare themselves to a character is to write back to back poems; one poem is written about themselves and the other about a story character.

In order to do this, the students have to be well into the book and know the character pretty well. So this would be an activity that could be done mid-way into or beyond in the story.

**Graphic Organizer:** “The Important Thing” sheet

Model how you would fill in The Important Thing sheet if focusing on yourself. Then have students write one focusing on themselves. On the same day, or in another lesson, have students write The Important Thing sheet based on the main character of a book they are reading. Students can then sit with a partner and explain how they are like or unlike the character they are reading about.

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